

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03775 01 OF 02 020640Z

11

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

----- 116615

R 020525Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9572

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3775

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS TO CODEL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OUTLINE NOTES ON WHICH AMBASSADOR BASED HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS TO CODEL WHICH VISITED HERE MARCH 1. THIS SESSION WAS FIRST EVENT ON THEIR PROGRAM, JUST PRIOR TO CALL ON MARSHAL LON NOL.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

A. IS CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT WORTHY OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE?

1. CAMBODIA IS A RELATIVELY DEMOCRATIC REGIME; CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT; NON-AUTHORITARIAN, WHICH IS ITS STRENGTH AND ITS WEAKNESS.

2. RELATIVELY FREE PRESS; INTERNATIONAL PRESS CAN FILE AS IT PLEASES; NO POLITICAL PRISONERS.

3. GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY OFFERED UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS; ANYWHERE, ANY TIME, WITH ANYONE MANDATED TO SPEAK FOR THE OTHER SIDE.

4. CHIEF OF STATE, LON NOL, HAS INDICATED HE IS NO OBSTACLE TO A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT. THIS IS WHAT HIS PHRASE "WE ARE NOT FIGHTING FOR ONE MAN OR ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE, BUT SURVIVAL OF CERTAIN VALUES" MEANS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03775 01 OF 02 020640Z

5. ABOVE ALL, THE URGENCY OF THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL

AMERICAN FUNDS. WITHOUT THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, THIS SIDE WILL COLLAPSE WITHIN SEVERAL WEEKS.

B. WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDS?

1. CAMBODIANS ARE INDICATING THEIR DETERMINATION AND WILL TO RESIST A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER. THE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS KILLED ON THIS SIDE DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. DURING JANUARY 2,400 SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. FROM 1 FEBRUARY TO THE 20TH OF FEBRUARY, 1,857 SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. FOR A POPULATION OF FIVE MILLION ON THIS SIDE, IT IS A STAGGERING STATISTIC.

2. DESPITE THE SUFFERING ON THIS SIDE, THE CAMBODIANS CONTINUE TO SEEK REFUGE ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE BY THE THOUSANDS. MORE THAN 60,000 REFUGEES WERE GENERATED IN JANUARY ALONE. THERE ARE NOW A TOTAL OF 1,327,000 REFUGEES REGISTERED ON THIS SIDE. OTHER REFUGEES HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN BY THEIR FAMILIES. OUT OF A POPULATION OF FIVE MILLION, THIS IS AN APPALLING FIGURE. THEY DO NOT GO OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE. THE NUMBER OF CAMBODIANS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO GO OVER TO THE KC IS JUST A TRICKLE.

3. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMMITTED MANY ATROCITIES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. THE AMERICAN PRESS AND TELEVISION HAVE COVERED THEM EXTENSIVELY. WE HAVE A FACT SHEET ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. WITH THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WE CAN BUY TIME. TIME FOR WHAT? FOR THE CAMBODIANS TO STABILIZE THE MILITARY SITUATION WHICH MAY, LATER IN THE YEAR, AFTER THEY HAVE PROVEN THEIR ABILITY TO WITHSTAND THE COMMUNIST ONSLAUGHT, LEAD TO A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

5. HUMANITARIAN AID WITHOUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS NOT FEASIBLE. THE MILITARY AID IS NEEDED FOR THIS SIDE TO STAND SO THAT THOSE INNOCENT CIVILIANS WHO HAVE SUFFERED CAN RECEIVE THE HUMANITARIAN AS-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PHNOM 03775 01 OF 02 020640Z

SISTANCE.

6. HOW MUCH AID? THIS DEPENDS CLEARLY ON THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING. ON THE BASIS OF CONTINUED INTENSIVE FIGHTING, \$222 MILLION IS THE BEST ESTIMATE WE HAVE. ANY DRASTIC REDUCTION FROM THIS FIGURE WOULD MEAN CURTAILING AMMUNITION TO THE CAMBODIAN MILITARY IN THE EFFORT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND HAVING THE

PIPELINE DRY UP SO THAT IN JUNE OR JULY WE WILL BE IN
THE SAME POSITION AS WE ARE NOW.

C. CAN THE CAMBODIANS ON THIS SIDE GET THROUGH THE
DRY SEASON, I.E. UNTIL END OF THIS FISCAL
YEAR?

1. WITH SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS, THEY HAVE A GOOD CHANCE
OF MAKING IT.

2. THEY HAVE DONE A RELATIVELY EFFECTIVE JOB IN
CONTAINING THE ENEMY AROUND THE PHNOM PENH PERIMETER.
THEY ARE TRYING TO REESTABLISH POSITIONS ON THE MEKONG.
IN THE LATTER THEY HAVE NOT BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL AS THEY
HAD HOPED, BUT THEY ARE CONTINUING TO WORK ON THIS
PROBLEM. CONVOYS GO DAILY DOWN THE MEKONG FROM PHNOM
PENH TO A POINT HALF-WAY BETWEEN HERE AND THE VIET-NAM
BORDER TO RESUPPLY NEAK LUONG.

3. ALL COMBAT INTERVENTION BRIGADES ARE MASSED
ON THE TWO LIFELINES OF THIS NATION: AROUND PHNOM
PENH AND ALONG THE MEKONG. THIS MEANS THAT SOME OF
THE OUTLYING DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN DENUDED OF EFFECTIVE
COMBAT FORCES AND THIS HAS LED TO SOME SETBACKS IN THE
PROVINCES.

DEAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03775 02 OF 02 020731Z

11

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

----- 116758

R 020525Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9573

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3775

4. WHILE NO ONE CAN WITH CERTAINTY PREDICT THE
MILITARY OUTCOME, WITH SUFFICIENT ADDITIONAL FUNDS I
THINK THE CAMBODIANS WILL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH THE

DRY SEASON, PROBABLY SERIOUSLY WEAKENED, BUT SO WILL BE THE ENEMY, PERHAPS MORE SO.

D. OBJECTIVE

1. TRY TO STABILIZE THE MILITARY SITUATION.
2. IF THE CAMBODIANS CAN ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, THEN PERHAPS CONDITIONS WILL BE MORE PROPITIOUS FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION LATER THIS YEAR.
3. UNDER THE PRESENT CONDITIONS THE COMMUNISTS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE INTERESTED IN ANY KIND OF A SETTLEMENT OTHER THAN A MILITARY TAKEOVER.

E. EFFECT OF NO SUPPLEMENTAL US ASSISTANCE ON THE LOCAL SCENE

1. LET THERE BE NO DOUBT THAT THIS WILL LEAD TO THE EARLY COLLAPSE OF THIS SIDE.
2. IT WILL BE AN UNCONTROLLED SOLUTION IN WHICH THE U.S. WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE A PART IN PROTECTING THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT THE COMMUNISTS.
3. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT AN UNCONTROLLED SOLU-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03775 02 OF 02 020731Z

TION WILL LEAD TO AN EFFORT BY THE COMMUNISTS TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL RAPIDLY, WITH BRUTALITY, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NEW SYSTEM IN CAMBODIA. THIS IS THE WAY THEY HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE ZONES WHICH THEY PRESENTLY CONTROL.

4. AS CHIEF OF MISSION I WILL HAVE TO ORDER THE EVACUATION OF THOSE FOR WHOM WE ARE RESPONSIBLE. WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE EVENTUALITY THAT THOSE CAMBODIANS WHO HAVE PLACED THEIR TRUST IN THE U.S. WILL VENT THEIR ANGER AGAINST THEIR FORMER FRIENDS. I CANNOT TAKE ANY CHANCES OF RISKING THE LIVES OF THOSE FOR WHOM I AM RESPONSIBLE. IT MEANS AN EARLY EVACUATION OF ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND THOSE OTHERS FOR WHOM WE ARE RESPONSIBLE.

5. IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1948 IN CHINA THAT AN UNCONTROLLED COLLAPSE WILL OCCUR, EXCEPT THAT IN THIS CASE, UNLIKE CHINA, THERE IS NOT EVEN A FORMOSA TO WHICH THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FIGHTING THE COMMUNISTS CAN ESCAPE.

END TEXT.

DEAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SPEECHES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM03775
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750073-0339
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750390/aaaaddtb.tel
Line Count: 225
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS TO CODEL
TAGS: OREP, MOPS, MASS, CB, US, (DEAN, JOHN GUNTHER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006